

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending; claims 24 and 25 are cancelled herein, and therefore claims 1-23 remain for consideration.

Applicants' Counsel has contacted the Examiner by telephone on several occasions (i.e., on December 10, 2004 and February 1, 2005) to discuss a discrepancy in the outstanding Office Action of December 1, 2004. The outstanding Office Action states that claims 1-23 are allowed under allowable subject matter on page 3, yet erroneously includes an old rejection of claims 1-8, 10-12, 14, 16 and 18-22 as allegedly being anticipated by Ellis (U.S. Pat. No. 3,734,809) on page 2. The Examiner noted in the telephone conferences that claims 1-23 are indeed allowed, and that a corrected Office Action would be issued. We have not yet received such a corrected Office Action. Accordingly, in order to avoid abandonment of the above-identified patent application, this Response is being filed along with a Request for Continued Examination. This Response will assume that claims 1-23 are allowed.

Claims 24 and 25 are being cancelled herein. As a result, only the allowed claims 1-23 remain in the above-identified patent application.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-23 are allowed and therefore the above-identified application is in condition to proceed to allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

This Response is being accompanied with a Request for Continued Examination and a Petition for Extension of Time. A check in the amount of \$905.00 is submitted herewith to cover the fee for filing the accompanying Request for Continued Examination (\$395.00) and the three month extension fee for a small entity (\$510.00). No additional fees or deficiencies in fees are believed to be owed.

However, authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 13-0235 in the event any such fees are owed.

Respectfully submitted,

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